BAS DEGREE DISCUSSION: Faculty Senate, February 23, 2015

1. **What is a BAS degree?**

   Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree – a degree geared towards non-traditional students with a science and technical background AAS degree from a community college

2. **Why should UNI consider offering a BAS degree?**

   a. UNI’s mission as a regional comprehensive university in the state
      (1) Improving access for a quality bachelor’s degree to students who don’t have access except through places like Kaplan
      (2) Serving the state of Iowa – UNI is the institution for Iowa students, based on historical percentages of who our target audience has been in the past

   b. Need for this in the state (None of the 3 regent institutions have this.)
      - Approximately 4500 individuals graduate from AAS programs in Iowa each year. Business Management and Administration, Manufacturing, and Health Sciences are the largest areas. Numbers of AAS students graduating each year are very similar to the number of AA students graduating each year from Iowa Community Colleges.
      - More than 200,000 Iowans indicate an associate degree as the highest level of educational attainment (many of whom are AAS degree holders).
      - Community colleges have expressed enthusiastic support for the concept of a BAS from UNI. They are ready to help us promote these opportunities and work with us to help their future AAS students be prepared to enter a four-year institution.
      - The closest degree in the Regents’ institutions is the Bachelor of Applied Studies degree at Iowa, and they have over 300 students in that program. See [http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/programs/undergraduate/bas/](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/programs/undergraduate/bas/)
      - Buena Vista University has recently started offering a Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree in Applied Management. [http://www.bvu.edu/gps/programs/bachelor-of-applied-science/basc-applied-management](http://www.bvu.edu/gps/programs/bachelor-of-applied-science/basc-applied-management)

3. **What do the students look like who would be taking this degree program?**

   a. Non-traditional in age and background (based on data from Iowa DOE Community College Division, provided by community colleges)
   b. Already working in technical jobs – wanting a promotion to some management level
   c. Completed their AAS degree, for which there are no existing articulation for general education coursework across the state with the Regent institutions.
   d. Place-bound (based on data from Iowa DOE Community College Division, provided by community colleges)

4. **What type of preparation do the students have who would be taking this degree?**

   a. At least 12 credit hours of general education (is increasing to 15 over the next few years, due to HLC criteria), with at least one course from each of the three categories below
      (1) Communication
      (2) Science/Math
      (3) Social Studies/Humanities

   In the majority of the programs, the Communication general education requirement is fulfilled by a writing or speech course, and the Math/Science general education requirement is fulfilled by College
Algebra, Technical Math, or an introductory Chemistry, Biology, or Anatomy/Physiology class. Most of these courses would count towards the communication, math, or science requirements of our current LAC. The most variance within AAS programs is found in the Social Studies/Humanities area. However, being general education courses, they comply with Liberal Arts and Science requirements for faculty credentials (i.e., a Master’s degree in the subject area).

The Division of Community Colleges within the Iowa Department of Education is very interested in working with UNI to develop general education core courses for AAS programs to better align with BAS program requirements. While the Department cannot mandate the adoption of this “General Education Core,” there is a belief that Iowa’s community college administrators and faculty will be highly motivated to alter their programs accordingly in order to improve the transferability of their AAS programs into the university’s BAS programs.

b. Major coursework in their technical field, leading up to a total of 60 hours of transferable credit to UNI.

5. What has been the timeline of discussion at UNI regarding a BAS degree?
   a. Spring 2014 Task Force work & open forum (March 5, 2014) – Jerry Smith was Faculty Senate rep on the committee
      (1) Charge by Provost (Dec. 2013): Feasibility of offering a BAS
      (2) Membership: Mike Licari (chair), John Fritch, Brenda Bass, Kent Johnson, Jerry Smith, Deedee Heistad, and Mohammed Fahmy
   b. Sept. 8, 2014: Report of Task Force shared with Faculty Senate (see calendar item 1249, docket item #1154). Faculty Senate charged University Curriculum Committee (UCC) with coming up with a general structure for BAS degree.
   c. Sept. 24, 2014: Lengthy discussion at UCC meeting about possible BAS structure, with department representatives interested in developing a BAS program invited.
   d. Oct. 13, 2014: UCC presented structure to Faculty Senate, and Faculty Senate approved structure of the BAS degree – 21-30 hours LAC, 21-30 hours major, and 0-18 hours of electives. Faculty Senate asked Liberal Arts Core Committee (LACC) to explore what the LAC might be for BAS students. Faculty Senate asked UCC to make a recommendation regarding the foreign language exit requirement for BAS degree-seeking students.
   e. Nov. 12 & Dec. 3, 2014: Discussion at UCC meetings of LACC work on BAS LAC options, as well as foreign language exit requirement. At Dec. 3 meeting, members of interested BAS major departments were also present to provide feedback on BAS core framework and foreign language exit requirement, in which all BAS students would take classes from each category of outcomes, with coursework still to be developed. Iowa Department of Education Community College representative present at Dec. 3 meeting to discuss data related to need for BAS degree offerings in Iowa.
   f. Jan. 12, 2015: BAS core framework presented as draft model from LACC to Faculty Senate.
   g. Feb. 2015: Survey of faculty done by Faculty Senate regarding faculty thoughts towards BAS degree.
   h. Feb. 23, 2015: Open forum of Faculty Senate to discuss BAS degree.

6. What are the next steps to be taken if UNI faculty and departments decide to offer a BAS degree?
   a. Courses in LAC for BAS degree will need to be identified and/or developed, so that the BAS core (with outcomes and courses identified) would go through the regular curriculum process, consulting with affected departments, college senates, the LACC, the UCC, and the Faculty Senate.
   b. BAS majors (and related coursework) will need to be approved through the regular curriculum process, with appropriate consultations.
   c. Approval of BAS degree program from external bodies (HLC; Board of Regents) will be sought.
   d. Departments will work with Division of Continuing Education & Special Programs in developing marketing materials and cohort-based offerings.